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5 APRIL 1972

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DIRECTORATE OF
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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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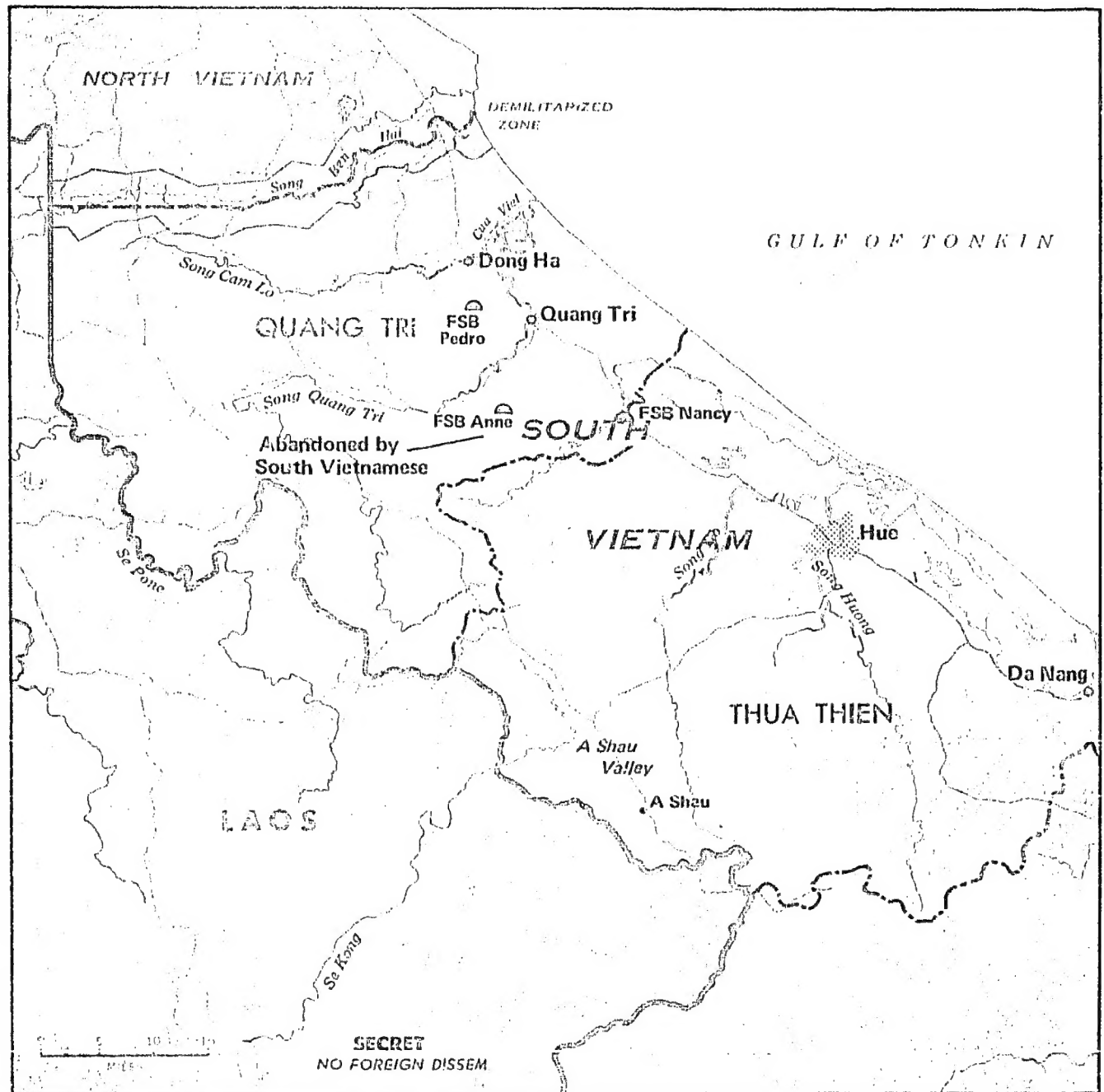
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(SOUTH VIETNAM: Military action appears to have slowed down in South Vietnam's northernmost province, but the Communists are keeping the pressure on government forces.

The North Vietnamese continue to shell the remaining South Vietnamese strongpoints at Dong Ha and Quang Tri and nearby Fire Support Base Pedro. South Vietnamese reinforcements are arriving and efforts to maintain a defensive line are under way. The seasoned reinforcements may have a stabilizing influence on the South Vietnamese 3rd Division, the newest of the government's divisions which has borne the brunt of the fighting so far.

The loss of Fire Support Base Anne yesterday, however, has opened a corridor that the North Vietnamese may use to bypass Quang Tri city and to move farther south toward Hue. The Communists are also taking advantage of the continuing cloudy weather to ship large quantities of supplies south on Route 1 through the DMZ.

Prisoners and a map taken from the body of a North Vietnamese officer indicate that Communist forces have been told that the primary goals of the current campaign are to take both Quang Tri and Hue cities. [REDACTED] the Communists hope to cut off both Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces from the south and "destroy" South Vietnamese forces remaining there. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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TURKEY: Recent terrorism and the lack of any progress on the government's reform program have again made a direct military take-over a real possibility.

President Sunay, fronting for the military-dominated National Security Council, has publicly called for the suspension of all partisan political activity and demanded that the Erim government be empowered to rule temporarily by executive decree. Prime Minister Erim has indicated that he will resign unless the political parties rally behind him and accept what amounts to a new military ultimatum.

The initial reaction of the major political parties has been equivocal. The dominant Justice Party appears to be toying with the idea of seeking a national referendum on the issue of government by decree. The Republican People's Party is unable to make any unified response because it is in a shambles that may lead to a major split. There is no word as yet on the reaction of the several minor parties, but they too probably will be divided.

The US Embassy in Ankara views the prospect of direct military intervention as greater now than at any time since the crisis last fall. The embassy notes, however, that the odds are still against such action at this time. The pressures for a take-over may pass if there is serious movement toward compromise among the political forces within the next few days. (SECRET)

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USSR: Moscow will initiate weekly sailings next month with the addition of a specially designed container ship on the Japan - Soviet Far East leg of its land-sea route across the USSR to Europe.

Some 750 containers a month probably will move on the system this year. The number will increase in 1973 when a new container terminal, being built with Japanese aid, is completed in the Soviet Far East. During the past year of limited service, less than 200 containers per month were carried by the system.

Rates up to 20 percent below that for all-sea transport are designed to compensate for the current several additional days it takes to move cargo by this route. More rapid deliveries are likely to follow with the addition of a second new container ship to operate on the Leningrad-Hamburg-Rotterdam portion of the run, improved transloading efficiency, and the possible use of all-container express trains across the trans-Siberian railroad. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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NOTE

PAKISTAN: There are growing indications that the agreement reached on 6 March between President Bhutto and Wali Khan, whose party is the strongest in the two provinces along the western frontier, is breaking down. Wali has announced that his party will not support the extension of martial law--a key provision of the agreement in Bhutto's view--and accused the president of leading the country to civil war. Wali has not yet given a clear indication of how far he intends to go in opposing Bhutto, but his followers could cause considerable civil disorder, especially in the frontier provinces.
(CONFIDENTIAL)

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